

=SEPARATION=

Lesson 2

Alcoholic Beverages (Drinking)

Scripture: Luke 15:11-32

Objects to have:

A handful of coins
A picture of a tavern or a nightclub
Pictures of liquor bottles and milk bottles
Your figure of the boy or girl
Your Bible.

Introducing the lesson:

Our friend _____ is here again today in our Sunday school. He doesn't look any different from last Sunday, does he? We're going to use today something about him that we have already used. As I tell you the Bible story, you guess to yourself what it is that we are going to use.

Telling the story:

There was a certain man who had two boys in his house. He loved his boys very dearly, as all good fathers do. This man worked hard at his job so that he would have enough money to have a nice house, to have good food to eat in the house, to have clothes to dress his boys, and to buy gifts for them once in a while. Beside having enough money to buy all these things, the father had enough money to put into the bank. He had money left over after paying his bills. He was probably a rich man, don't you think?

Daddies and mommies who love their boys and girls like to see their boys and girls happy. This daddy was like that. One day he called to his boys: "Sons, come here a few moments. I want to talk to you." The boys came into the house and sat down to talk with their father. Their father said, "I have been blessed of God. He has given me enough money to have a good home for you and to take good care of you. Besides this much money, He has given me even more. I have been able to put some of my money into the bank." (Get out your coins and pile them on the table.) "Someday this money will be yours. When you are grown up, part of everything that I own and part of this money will go to each one of you. Older son, this much is yours." (Show which part of the coins would be his.) "Younger son, this much is yours." (Show this amount.) Then the talk was over.

How would you feel if your daddy or your mommy showed you lots of money and told you which part was going to be yours when you got grown up? None of our homes do that anymore, but I would have been excited if I had been one of those two boys. The younger boy thought about what their father had told them. As he got older and older and bigger and bigger, he told himself how good it would be to have that money for his own. As long as he lived at home and worked with his father he really did not need this money. His father took care of all his needs. This money could just stay in the bank and maybe more would be added to it as time went on.

One day I think that the younger son decided that life at home was getting too dull. "Just think how exciting it would be to go to new places! I could do just as I please. Dad would not be there to say, 'Son, you ought not to do that. You ought to live right to please God.'" He thought that he got tired of hearing that, whereas he was glad that his father loved him. He said to himself, "I know what I'll do—I'll ask Dad to give me the part of the money that is mine. Then I can go and buy the good time that I want to have." He went and got his money from his father.

A few days after that the boy very excitedly packed his clothes. He was going to take a trip! He was going to see the world and do interesting things. He wasn't going to stay home any longer where he had jobs to do and where his father was always telling him what to do and say.

The son traveled a long, long way from home. He went so far from home that he had to find another place to live. "Oh, that looks like a nice place to live." He went inside and talked to the man who owned the building. "I would like to live here. I am new in town. Will you rent a place to me?" He didn't care how much he had to pay the man to live there, because he had lots and lots of money now. (Take away from the pile of money and put it into something.) Then he began looking for places to go where he could have a good time.

I think that he should have looked for a church where he could go to Sunday school and church services, don't you? He didn't think about church at all. He was just wanting a good time. Do you think that God was pleased with that? No, He wasn't. God knows that it is not good for us ever to stop going to church.

We could help the boy have a good time, couldn't we? We could think of some good friends to play games with. We could think of going outside and swinging on the swings. We could think of some good books to read. We could think of pretty places to go for a walk. We could go for a ride. We could ride our bikes. We could have a good time doing all of these things. We can laugh and laugh and feel good when we get back home.

This young man forgot that he could have a good time doing good things at home. He went looking in the wrong places. He went up to a building that had a sign advertising liquor. (Show your picture of a tavern or a nightclub.) The lights were bright, people were laughing and noisy. He walked in and said, "Hello. I want to be your friend. I am new in town. I want to have a good time with you. I have lots of money to spend. What is that drink that you are drinking?"

One of his new friends said, "Oh, you ought to try some. You drink some of this drink and it will make you feel good." So, the young man drank some liquor for the first time in his life. (Sound horrified.) It didn't smell good and it didn't taste good, but everybody told him to try some more. So he drank some more. But he had to spend money to get this liquor. (Take more money away.)

He went back home. The next day he didn't feel so good. His stomach was upset, and his head hurt. One of his friends came by to see him. "Hi, there, are you going out again tonight? We'll have a big time. We would like to have you come. You're a lot of fun." So he went to another wild party that night. He drank liquor and danced and laughed real loud. He almost forgot all about home and his father. Once in a while, though, the thought came to him that Dad would not like for him to be with this wild crowd of people and would not like for him to be drinking this liquor and acting this badly. He pushed these thoughts out of his mind. Drinking liquor keeps anybody from thinking straight.

Do you think that he was remembering to say his prayers at night? No, he was not saying his prayers. He wasn't thinking about God those days. Liquor keeps a person from thinking about God. Liquor makes people do mean and hurtful things, too. Day after day the younger son was buying drinks and going places, looking for a good time. (While saying this, keep taking coins from the pile of coins until the money is gone.)

One day, the man who owned the building came to his door and said, "You owe me some money for living here. Pay me."

The son said, "I don't have any. I'll get a job and pay you." He started out to look for a job. Nobody had any work for him to do. Now he couldn't live in that nice building any more.

He went to a farm and talked to a farmer who had some pigs. "May I have a job and a place to live on your farm?"

The farmer said, "I do need somebody to take care of my pigs. You may have a job feeding my pigs." Feeding pigs! Pigs are dirty. They smell bad.

The young man watched the pigs eating and he thought, "I'm hungry. But I don't have any money to buy food. The pigs surely look as if they're enjoying their food. I almost wish that I could eat some of their food. Oh, me, look at me. My clothes look dirty and wrinkled. I have no money to buy new clothes. Why, I would be satisfied with pigs' food. Even the servants that work for my father have enough to eat and a nice place to live. I'm going home and I'll tell my father how bad I have been. I won't even ask if I can be treated like a son anymore."

The son started on his long journey home. As he got closer to home, his father saw him coming. He was so glad to see his son coming home! He ran to meet him and to hug him. "Oh, Son, you look terrible. Let's get you washed up and put some clean clothes on you. Then we'll have a good supper."

The younger son said, "Oh, Father, I am not worthy to be called your son any longer. I am so sorry that I left home and spent all of the money that you gave me. I never want to live so wickedly again."

Boys and girls, drinking liquor always brings about bad. Always trust in God and do right.

LEARN OUR BIBLE VERSE: "Trust in the Lord, and do good...." Psalm 37:3.

Boys and girls, let's think about what should and what should not go into our friend's mouth. (Hold up your pictures of liquor and milk, one by one, and let the children decide what kind of drink should go into our friend's mouth. Lead them to realize that liquor should not go into their mouths, either.)